



July 2007

Spring and Summer Events Mark National Trails Day 2007

Balfour Riverwalk Designated a National Recreation Trail

Attleboro, MA (June 2, 2007)

On National Trails Day, 125 walkers and 6 kayakers celebrated the dedication of the Balfour Riverwalk as a National Recreation Trail. The celebrants walked .5 miles on the newly improved Riverwalk (or paddled along the Ten Mile River) connecting the Balfour Park to Larson Woods. The celebrators were greeted at Mechanics Pond by a half dozen nesting snapping turtles and 2 swans which were not as pleased with the event as the many participants. At the conclusion of the round trip walk, short speeches were made by Mayor Dumas, YMCA Executive Director Duane German, Ms. Teen Attleboro, and Congressman McGovern's district staff director. City Council Clerk Linda Alger, who was the spark plug behind the trail improvements, was recognized with the Conservation Hero Award by the National Park Service's Steve Golden.

The NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has worked with FAIR (Friends of Attleboro Interested in Revitalization) to champion the development of the Riverwalk by preparing a vision map of the Ten Mile River Greenway and clearing and opening the first .5 mile portion of the path with help from many City Departments. Three kiosks were constructed by the High School Vocation Technical Department with support from the Rotary Club. The Greenway has been incorporated into a major revitalization plan for the downtown, which was approved by the Attleboro City Council. For more information, please contact Steve Golden, NPS RTCA, at steve_golden@nps.gov or 617- 223- 5123.



Photo by Sandy Parson

"Hurray for Trails" National Trails Day, Attleboro, MA

Indiana Governor Calls Cardinal Greenway a Pioneer

Losantville, IN (April 19, 2007)

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels helped cut a ribbon to open seven miles of Cardinal Greenway between Prairie Creek Reservoir and Losantville. The Cardinal Greenway now has 27 miles of paved trail from Gaston to Losantville with eight additional miles of paved trail from Jonesboro to Marion, and two miles in Richmond. Daniels called the Cardinal Greenway organization a trail pioneer in Indiana. Long before there was a "Hoosiers on the Move" - - the state's trails, greenways and bikeways plan, adopted last July - - "there was a Cardinal Greenway," the governor noted. Spearheaded by the nonprofit Cardinal Greenway, project partners include local government, regional planning agencies, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. RTCA has supported the Cardinal Greenway through consultation on funding strategies, trail design, and trail operation and construction. RTCA participated in many of the early meetings with adjacent landowners and continues to provide guidance to the organization as well as on the greenway project. For more information, please contact Rory Robinson, NPS RTCA Indiana Projects Manager, at rory_robinson@nps.gov or 330- 657- 2951.



Cardinal Greenway (Muncie) with restored Muncie Station, home of the Cardinal Greenway organization.

Upper Valley Trails Alliance Hosts Trail Clean- Up

Upper Valley, NH (June 2, 2007)

Twenty projects brought out approximately 200 people to brush trails and help with major clean- up from a strong April Nor'easter that brought down many trees across the Upper Valley region. National Trails Day (NTD) provided the backdrop for the installation and dedication of 17 of 20 new kiosks at trailheads throughout Lebanon, New Hampshire on conserved properties throughout the city. With NPS help, the Upper Valley Trails Alliance began hosting a variety of projects on NTD, beginning in 1999. Each year they have a similar number of trail projects on NTD. The NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program helped bring together the loosely held coalition of trail groups to create the Upper Valley Trails Alliance in 1999 and have since worked on specific projects like Upper Valley Trails for Life, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded Active Living by Design project which aims to get Upper Valley residents using trails as part of their everyday life. For more information, please contact Lelia Mellen, NPS RTCA, at lelia_mellen@nps.gov or 802- 457- 3368 x14.

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail Lead Trail Clean- Up Walk Andover, NH (June 2, 2007)

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County led a trail clean- up walk on National Trails Day. The group cleared overgrown brush, picked up trash, and generally enjoyed the trail. The NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has been working with the Friends this year to develop a sign plan for the trail and strategies for raising the match to their \$206,000 Transportation Enhancements (TE) grant. In the past two years, the Friends have improved 3.4 miles of trail and they expect to improve another 2 miles this summer. The TE grant will allow 8 more miles of trail to be smoothed and useable year round. For more details, please contact Lelia Mellen, NPS RTCA, at lelia_mellen@nps.gov or 802- 457- 3368 x14.

Groundwork Bridgeport Green Team Creates New Trail Wilton, CT (June 2, 2007)

GW Bridgeport Green Team celebrated National Trails Day clearing the first section of a new trail at the Weir Farm National Historic Site in Connecticut. A group of four high school students on the Green Team removed small trees and constructed paths over two brooks, creating over 200 ft. of trail. The Weir Farm Natural Resource Manager guided and taught the team about plant life and trail- making. Groundwork Bridgeport and the Individual Self- Sufficiency Program provided additional classroom training in horticulture and landscaping. The Green Team will continue this project throughout the summer with a larger crew and plans to complete the new trail in the fall. GW Bridgeport is a member of the Groundwork USA Initiative of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, which builds the capacity of urban communities to improve their environment for conservation, recreation and economic development. For more information, please contact Douglas Evans, Manager of the Groundwork USA Initiative for the NPS RTCA Program at douglas_evans@nps.gov or 617- 223- 5124.



GW Bridgeport Green Team at Work

Orange Heritage Trail Obtains National Recreation Trail Designation

Goshen, NY (June 1, 2007)

The Orange Heritage Trail received national praise when Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced it as one of 40 trails nationwide to be officially designated a National Recreation Trail (NRT). Orange County Commissioners and employees marked news of the NRT designation with a lunchtime walk on the trail. The NRT marker was presented to County Parks Commissioner Brett Simmons by Karl Beard of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. Karl Beard noted, "This designation means that the Orange Heritage Trail will get some well- deserved recognition. The benefits include a possible web page on the NRT website, as well as access to certain trail assistance and funding opportunities. In return, the only obligation is that the trail be maintained to high standards for at least ten years. The Orange County Parks Department does that anyway, and does it very well. The residents of Orange County are incredibly fortunate to have such a successful trail so close to home."

Attendees included Orange County Executive Ed Diana, County Health Commissioner Dr. Jean Hudson, and Planning Commissioner David Church. The event supported the County's Healthy Orange campaign, which encourages walking, healthy eating and being tobacco- free as important steps toward increasing overall health. For more information, please contact Karl Beard, NPS RTCA, at karl_beard@nps.gov or 845- 229- 9115 x 34.



NRT celebration on Orange Heritage Trail

Virginia Capital Trail Receives National Recreation Trail Designation

Jamestown, VA (June 2, 2007)

The Virginia Capital Trail, the 50- mile bicycle and pedestrian trail currently being built between the colonial capitals of Jamestown and Williamsburg and the present day capital of Richmond, was designated National Recreation Trail status by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on National Trails Day. The National Park Service confers designation annually on trails that showcase scenic and historic American landscapes. The application was submitted by the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation for the first

phase of the project, between historic Jamestown and Chickahominy River. The designation is expected to extend to the entire trail upon completion over the next four years. The Virginia Capital Trail connects several National Park Service properties, including Richmond National Battlefield Park and Colonial National Historic Park which includes Jamestowne, Yorktown, and the Colonial Parkway. For more information, please contact Ursula Lemanski, NPS RTCA, at ursula_lemanski@nps.gov or 703- 431- 7728.

Delaware Water Gap NRA Celebrates NRT Designation Shawnee on the Delaware, PA (June 26, 2007)

A special event was held as part of the annual Delaware River Sojourn to celebrate the National Recreation Trail (NRT) designation of the Delaware River Water Trail's Middle Delaware 40.6- mile section. The theme for the event was "Float it, Hike it, or Ride it" to spotlight the unique opportunities for experiencing the area's spectacular scenery, recreational resources, and historic features. A fun paddle through scenic Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) culminated in a water trail dedication ceremony at the Shawnee Inn riverfront resort. NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program Leader Dave Lange attended and presented NRT plaques to DEWA Superintendent John Donahue; Ernie Kavert, Worthington State Forest; and Celeste Tracy, Delaware River Greenway Partnership (DRGP). NPS RTCA has assisted with development of a water trail guide, river recreation maps, a river access database, and water trail concept plan. For more information, please contact Julie Bell, NPS RTCA, at Julie_Bell@nps.gov or 215- 597- 6473.



Middle Delaware River Water Trail NRT Celebration (left to right: DeNise Cooke- Bauer and Supt. John Donahue, DEWA; Ernie Kavert, Worthington State Forest; Celeste Tracy, DRGP; and Dave Lange, NPS RTCA). Photo courtesy DeNise Cooke- Bauer

Willamette River Water Trail Open for Paddling

Portland, OR (June 2, 2007)

Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett, Congressman David Wu, and Oregon Governor Kulongoski celebrated the completion of the final section of the Willamette River Water Trail with NPS officials, local and other federal officials, and more than 200 supporters. Before and after the dedication, over 125 canoes, drift boats and sea- kayaks participated in a short float trip on the new water trail. Lynn Scarlett and other speakers praised the project and those behind it for creating a close- to- home recreation experience that offers paddlers opportunities for active, healthy recreation and a chance to reconnect with nature. Deputy Secretary Scarlett stated, "The water trail is a great example of cooperative conservation...Working in a public- private partnership, local communities, state agencies, and private organizations have realized a shared vision that reconnects locals and visitors to the river."

NPS was recognized for its significant contributions to the water trail, including technical assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, Land and Water Conservation Fund grants for parcels along the river and a \$13,000 Challenge Cost Share Program award. RTCA responded to a request for assistance by helping this collaborative effort to convene and conduct planning sessions, involve the public in the development of the trail, coordinate volunteers to inventory and assess public access sites along the river, and develop a plan and guidebook for the water trail. The guidebook and more details about the water trail are available at <http://www.willamettewatertrail.org/> This project has been a four year effort resulting in an over 200- mile river trail from Eugene, OR to the confluence with the Columbia River in Portland, OR and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. For more information, please contact Dan Miller, NPS RTCA, at dan_miller@nps.gov or 360- 816- 6232.



Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett at Willamette River Water Trail event.

NPS Staff Recognized with Wild & Scenic Rivers Award

Sue Jennings, Wild & Scenic Rivers Regional Coordinator in Omaha, NE, received the Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers Award from the River Management Society, May 2007, in recognition of her regional and national leadership on programmatic and policy issues and on-the-ground management and technical support for wild and scenic rivers in the Midwest including: the Saint Croix River, Missouri River, Niobrara River, Little Miami River and other state-managed rivers for which NPS has regulatory responsibilities.



Please visit www.nps.gov/rtca for a listing of more National Trails Day 2007 events.